

REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Official Action mailed December 29, 2004. In order to advance prosecution of this Application, Claims 20-24 have been amended and Claims 1-8 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and favorable action for this Application.

Claims 1-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claims 1-8 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer in order to place the Application in condition for allowance and interference review.

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Land. Claim 1 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer in order to place the Application in condition for allowance and interference review.

Claims 1-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Schuster. Claims 1-7 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer in order to place the application in condition for allowance and interference review.

Claims 20 and 23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Lorraine, et al. Claim 20 has been amended to include the allowable limitation of Claim 21. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 20 and 23 are not anticipated by the Lorraine, et al. patent.

Claim 8 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Schuster, et al. in view of Lorraine, et al. Claim 8 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer in order to place the Application in condition for allowance and interference review.

Applicant notes with appreciation the allowance of Claims 9-19.

Applicant notes with appreciation the allowability of Claims 21, 22, 24, and 25 if placed into appropriate independent form. Independent Claim 20 has been amended to include the allowable limitation of Claim 21. Claim 24 has been amended into independent form as suggested by the Examiner. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 20-25 are in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

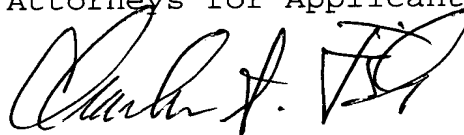
Applicant has now made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for immediate allowance and interference review. For the foregoing reasons and for other apparent reasons, Applicant respectfully requests allowance of all pending claims.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees and/or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 02-0384 of BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.

Respectfully submitted,

BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.

Attorneys for Applicant

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles S. Fish", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Charles S. Fish

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